Executive Proclamation
State of South Dakota
Office of the Governor

Whereas, USDA Rural Development is celebrating the 60th Anniversary of the Rural Utilities Service telecommunication loan and grant programs; and,

Whereas, Rural Utilities Service's telecommunications loan program was established to continue the successful delivery of new technology to rural America, and it has revolutionized the lives of millions of rural families and businesses by providing connectivity, access to emergency services, and business activities which fuel economic growth; and,

Whereas, Over the last 60 years, Rural Utilities Service has provided funding for telecommunications expansion and adoption benefiting communities by advancement from operator-assisted party line calls to next generation fixed and mobile broadband services, and in recent years has provided loans and grants to support deployment of technologies, equipment, and infrastructure for distance learning, telemedicine, and community-based broadband, and is currently working to deploy universal broadband access through rural America; and,

Whereas, Rural Utilities Service in South Dakota has, over the past 60 years, provided $827,239,878 in telecommunications loans, $32,586,221 in broadband loans, $10,951,447 in distance learning and telemedicine loans and grants, $2,159,728 in public TV grants, and $1,772,000 in CATV loans; and,

Whereas, USDA Rural Development is committed to the future of rural communities:

Now, Therefore, I, M. Michael Rounds, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim December 3, 2009, as

RURAL UTILITIES SERVICES 60TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION DAY

in South Dakota.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Twenty-third Day of November in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Nine.

M. Michael Rounds, Governor

Attest:

Chris Nelson, Secretary of State